

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM POLICY REVIEW BOARD

1. Committee's Official Designation (Title):

Gulf of Mexico Program Policy Review Board

2. Authority:

This charter renews the Gulf of Mexico Program Policy Review Board (GMPPRB) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App.2 § 9 (c). GMPPRB is in the public interest and supports the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in performing its duties and responsibilities under the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1981, as amended, (CWA P.L. 97-117), 33 U.S.C. 466 et seq.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:

The GMPPRB will provide advice, information and recommendations on plans to improve and protect the water quality and living resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

The major objectives are to provide advice and recommendations on:

- a. Key environmental and public health issues confronting the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.
- b. The environmental and public health goals, objectives, and annual performance goals of the Gulf of Mexico Program
- c. Strategies, programs, and actions to protect public health and the living resources of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.
- d. Efforts to coordinate monitoring, modeling, research, and public outreach activities to better track key indicators of environmental health and to foster stewardship.

4. Description of Committee's Duties:

The duties of GMPPRB are solely advisory in nature.

5. Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports:

GMPPRB will provide advice and recommendations and report to the EPA Administrator.

6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Gulf of Mexico Program Office, Office of Water, Region 4, and Region 6.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Work Years:

The estimated annual operating cost of GMPPRB is \$335,000 which includes 1.0 person-years of support.

8. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:

GMPPRB expects to meet approximately once a year. Meetings may occur approximately once every 12 months or as needed and approved by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when determined necessary and appropriate. A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the DFO. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

As required by FACA, GMPPRB will hold open meetings unless the EPA Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with subsection c of Section 552(b) of Title 5, United States Code. Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the Committee as time permits, and file comments with the GMPPRB.

9. Duration and Termination:

GMPPRB will be examined annually and will exist until the EPA Deputy Administrator determines the Committee is no longer needed. This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After the initial two-year period, the charter may be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA (5 U.S.C. App.2 § 14).

10. Member Composition:

The chartered Committee will be composed of approximately twenty (20) members. Members will serve as Regular Government Employees (RGEs) or as representatives of non-Federal interests. In selecting members, EPA will consider candidates from the following: Federal and State governments, business and industry, local governments, environmental/public interest groups, agricultural groups, and citizens.

11. Subgroups:

EPA may form GMPPRB subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered Committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the GMPPRB for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered Committee nor can they report directly to the Agency.

August 30, 2006
Agency Approval Date

September 6, 2006
GSA Consultation Date

September 22, 2006
Date Filed with Congress